

AMENDMENTS

1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended) ~~The circular die of Claim 1 further comprising~~ A circular die for extrusion, said die comprising:

an outer die having a generally conically shaped opening and in fluid communication with an extruder;

5 an inner cone nested in non-contact with said outer conically shaped die opening;

a drive shaft connected to said inner cone and located outside of said outer die such that said drive shaft is not in contact with the extrudate, wherein said inner cone rotates axially with said drive shaft; and,

a device for monitoring the torque applied on the inner cone.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The circular die of Claim 1 further comprising~~ A circular die for extrusion, said die comprising:

an outer die having a generally conically shaped opening and in fluid communication with an extruder;

5 an inner cone nested in non-contact with said outer conically shaped die opening;

a drive shaft connected to said inner cone and located outside of said outer die such that said drive shaft is not in contact with the extrudate, wherein said inner cone rotates axially with said drive shaft; and,

a device for monitoring the force applied by the extrudate on the inner cone.

11-14. (Withdrawn).

15-18. (Cancelled).